

REMARKS

Claims 12-20, 22 and 23 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-22 were rejected. Claims 1-11 and 21 are herein canceled. Claim 12 is herein amended. Claim 23 is herein added. No new matter is believed to have been entered through the claim amendment or new claim. Further, upon belief, it is respectfully submitted that this paper is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-5 and 12-14 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 and 6 of US 7,132,072.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

U.S. Patent No. 7,132,072 is a method for manufacturing a molding with a core based on the same principle of WO '067. The only difference between U.S. Patent No. 7,132,072 and WO '067 is in the quantity of the core of the molding. Because U.S. Patent No. 7,132,072 has the same problem as WO '067, it is submitted that claims 1-3 and 6 thereof do not cover claim 12 of the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the outstanding Office Action at page 4, the Examiner asserts that, “claims 1-12 and 15-22 recite the limitation ‘the outer layer’. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim because prior to the cited limitations, claims 1 and 12 fail to distinctly define ‘an out layer’ for the molding article.”

Firstly, it is noted that claims 1-11 and 21 are herein cancelled.

Further, claim 12 is herein amended as appropriate to clarify the recitations contained therein. More specifically, claim 12 is amended to recite, “a method for manufacturing a molding [[with]] which comprises a core and an outer layer by using compression molding means....” Also, as claims 13-20 and 22 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 12, the rejection over said claims (e.g., claims 13-20 and 22) is likewise overcome by the above amendment to claim 12.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kondo et al (WO 01/98067) (US Publ. 2004/0113319).

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 is herein amended to recite, “a method for manufacturing a molding which comprises a core and an outer layer by using compression molding means having an upper punch and a lower punch which are arranged in the vertical direction of a die, both of the upper punch and the lower punch having a double structure comprising a center punch and an outer punch surrounding the outer periphery of the center punch, and being slidable and capable of a compressing operation; the method comprising: a core supply step of supplying molding material for the core into a space defined above the lower center punch and surrounded by the lower outer punch; a core molding step of compression-molding the molding material for the core supplied in the preceding step; an outer layer supply step of supplying molding material for the outer layer into a space defined above and around the core molding in the die molded in the preceding step until a tip of the lower center punch finally takes a position protruding from a tip of the lower outer punch by lowering the lower outer punch; and a whole molding step of compression-molding the core molding and the molding material for the outer layer with the tips of the lower outer punch and the lower center punch aligned with each other.” It is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to describe at least the aforementioned recitations of claim 12 of the present application.

WO '067 has a disadvantage in that there is a case where it is not enough to mold powder or the like because of lower filling density in the side portion of the outer layer (please see paragraph No. 0008 of the Specification of the present application).

The present application is an improved invention over the cited art (e.g., see the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1 of US Publication 2004/0113319 (WO '067)). More specifically, the present application is characterized in that the supplying and filling quality of the molding material for the outer layer in the side portion is greater by lowering the lower outer punch until the tip of the lower center punch finally takes a position protruding from the tip of the lower punch as shown at J and K in Fig. 1 of the Drawings of the present application. Hence, the present application improves over WO '067. Needless to say, WO '067 does not disclose or suggest the characterized arrangement of the present application mentioned above.

Further, claims 13-20 and 22 which depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 12, are patentable for at least the reason of their respective dependencies from independent claim 12. Further, the arguments presented above over the cited art are applicable here (e.g., claims 13-20 and 22) where appropriate.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

New Claim

New claim 23 is herein added. Claim 23 recites, "wherein an outer layer molding step of compression-molding the molding material for the outer layer supplied in the outer layer supply

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step prior to the core supply step is performed prior to the core supply step.” It is submitted that the cited art fails to describe at least the aforementioned recitation of new claim 23.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 23 is patentable in view of the cited art.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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